

REMARKS

Claims 1-25 are pending; claims 1-8, 12, 13 and 18-21 are rejected; and claims 9-11, 14-17 and 22-25 are objected to in this application. Claims 1, 10, 11, 14-18 and 23-25 are amended; and claims 9, 12, 13, 21 and 22 are cancelled hereby.

Responsive to the rejection of claims 1, 4, 7, 8, 12, 13, 18, 20 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,816,269 (Loce et al.), Applicants have amended claims 1 and 18 and cancelled claims 12, 13 and 21. Applicants have amended claim 1 by incorporating the element of claim 9, which the Examiner indicated would be allowable if placed in independent form. Further, Applicants have amended claim 18 to include the elements of claim 21 and 22, which the Examiner had indicated would be an allowable claim if placed in independent form. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 1, 4, 7, 8, 18 and 20 are now in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

Claims 2, 3 and 19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Loce et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,917,443 (Wang). However, claims 2 and 3 depend from claim 1, and claim 19 depends from claim 18, and claims 1 and 18 are now in condition for allowance for the reasons given above. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 2, 3 and 19 are now in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

Claims 5 and 6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Loce et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,016,191 (Radochonski). However, claims 5 and 6 depend from claim 1, which is now in condition for allowance for the reasons given above. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 5 and 6 are now in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 9-11, 14-17 and 22-25 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. To that end, Applicants have taken the element of

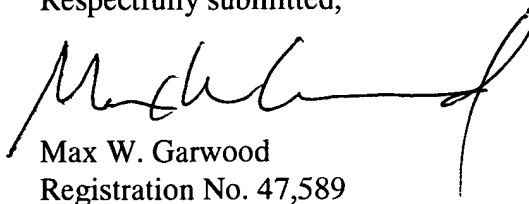
claim 9 and incorporated it into claim 1 and cancelled claim 9. Further, Applicants have placed claims 11, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 23-25 in independent form, the allowance of which is hereby respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that no combination of the cited references teaches, discloses or suggests the subject matter of the amended claims. The pending claims are therefore in condition for allowance, and Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of all rejections and allowance of the claims.

In the event Applicants have overlooked the need for an extension of time, an additional extension of time, payment of fee, or additional payment of fee, Applicants hereby conditionally petition therefor and authorize that any charges be made to Deposit Account No. 20-0095, TAYLOR & AUST, P.C.

Should any question concerning any of the foregoing arise, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (260) 897-3400.

Respectfully submitted,



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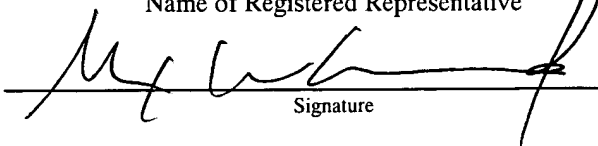
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: MS Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on: June 8, 2006.

Max W. Garwood, Reg. No. 47,589

Name of Registered Representative



Signature

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Date

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